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was even obliged by press of more interesting matter, to "abridge the letters on both sides." However, in the letter of the Orangeman, there came out, in the shape of "original extract," and "authentic document," what has raised in the public mind, expectations of *prudent forbearance*, among the members of the Orange association. And it is now, on the *near approach* of the occasion for the display of this *new* virtue, that I beg leave to direct, *still more*, the attention of your readers, and the public, to the issue. The Dublin Grand Lodge, in an order addressed to all the provincial Orange Lodges, has forbidden the continuance of the usual processions on 12th

July: and however the merit of this regulation is diminished by a false and foolish assertion, stated as the ground of its adoption*; it shows, nevertheless, though late, some regard for public opinion, and some feeling of common sense, and common shame. But will this feeling be acted upon? Will the Orange proclamation be obeyed? This a little time will disclose. It is to be hoped, these sworn enemies to Catholics, and to their friends, will yield to the dictates of *prudence*, and not outrage, at this season of increasing liberality, and legislative concession—THE WELL KNOWN SENSE OF THE NATION.

June 27th, 1812.

AMICUS.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

Resolutions of the Aggregate Catholic Meeting, held at the Little Theatre, Fishamble-street, Thursday, June 18, 1812.

THE EARL OF PINGALL, IN THE CHAIR.

1. Resolved, That we do *forthwith* renew our humble, but earnest application, by Petition to the Legislature, praying the total and unqualified repeal of the Penal Laws, which aggrieve the Catholics of these Realms, infringe the sacred rights of Religious Liberty, and endanger the existence of the British Empire.

2. That the charge of preparing such Petitions, and of causing them to be duly presented *without delay*, be confided to the individuals (possessing the confidence of the Catholics of Ireland) named at the late Aggregate Meeting, as the Board of the Catholics of Ireland.

3. That the said persons are so nominated, not to represent the people of those Realms, or any portion thereof, but for the purpose, solely and exclusively, already prescribed, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

4. That from authentic documents now before us, we learn with deep disappointment and anguish, how cruelly the promised boon of Catholic Freedom has been intercepted, by the fatal *witchery* of an unworthy secret influence, hostile to our fairest hopes, sparing alike the sanctions of public and private virtue, the demands of personal gratitude, and the sacred obligations of plighted honor.

5. That to this impure source we trace,

but too distinctly, our baffled hopes, and protracted servitude—the arrogant invasion of the undoubted Right of Petitioning—the acrimony of illegal State Prosecutions—the surrender of Ireland to prolonged oppression and insult—and the many experiments, equally pitiful and perilous, recently practised upon the habitual passiveness of an ill-treated, but high-spirited people.

6. That cheerless indeed would be our prospects, and faint our hopes of success, were they to rest upon the constancy of Courtiers, or the pompous patronage of men, who can coldly sacrifice the feelings and interests of millions at the shrine of perishable power, or, deluded by the blandishments of a too luxurious court, can hazard the safety of a people for ill-timed courtly compliment. The pageants of a court command not our respect,—our great cause rests upon the immutable foundations of truth, and justice, and reason.—Equal constitutional rights, unconditional, unstipulated, unpurchased by dishonour, are objects dearer to our hearts.—They consist with wisdom, virtue, humanity, true religion, and unaffected honor; and can never be abandoned by men who deserve to be free.

7. That for the complete attainment of this, our constitutional object, we firmly confide in our own persevering exertions,

* Namely, that the Orange cause had "been slandered by the Popish committee."

in the enlightened wisdom, and growing liberality of our Fellow-Citizens (recently and gloriously exhibited in their Petitions to Parliament in our behalf;) and, above all, in that overruling Providence which presides over the destinies of Nations, and permits not the oppression of man by his fellow-creature with impunity.

8. That, turning with disgust from the gloomy wreck of Public Character, presented in recent events, we recognise with esteem and admiration, the truly noble elevation of sentiment which has distinguished Lords GREY and GRENVILLE, and the other personages, who, with them, have stood aloof from the allurements of intrigue, and maintained the high station of rigid independence. We regard their recent conduct as dictated by sound wisdom, by well-founded caution, and by an honest anxiety as well for the secure attainment of great public benefits, as for the conservation of their personal honor.

9. That we have found in the Earl of DONOUGHMORE a steady, earnest, and intrepid Advocate of our Rights—an ever-faithful sentinel of our interests—an undaunted and judicious asserter of truths awfully important to our country. That the Right Honorable HENRY GRATTAN has eloquently sustained our application to the House of Commons, and has again deserved our eternal gratitude, and that our Chairman be requested to transmit these our sentiments in suitable terms to all those illustrious personages.

10. That we have viewed with inexpressible pleasure and admiration, the generous exertions of our Fellow-Citizens of other persuasions in our behalf, their solicitude in subscribing and recommending Petitions to Parliament for our relief, their spontaneous support at public meetings—we hope to merit their honourable confidence by a continuance of the same temperate, but firm conduct, which has already conciliated their esteem; and, though we cannot, in sincerity, proffer those securities, or arrangements, (amounting, if practicable, to the mere exchange of one species of servitude for another) yet we most cheerfully tender to their kind acceptance the only equivalents in our power, our warm affections, and lasting gratitude—our oaths of allegiance—our past loyalty and merits—our present willingness to assist (whenever by law permitted) in the arduous enterprise of saving the sinking vessel of the state.

11. That from recent observation of po-

litical duplicity, we feel it necessary to recommend most earnestly to all Catholic Freeholders throughout Ireland, steadily to resist the pretensions of any Candidates, who shall hesitate to pledge themselves publicly to the uniform support of Catholic Emancipation; or who shall have lent, or are likely to lend, their support to an Administration, founded in intolerance, and hostile to the full enjoyment of Religious Liberty.

12. That the expenses, unavoidably attendant upon the conduct of Catholic Petitions, and the defence of the invaded Rights of Petitioning, call for the liberal aid of our fellow-countrymen, and we confide to the public spirit and zeal of the Catholic Body, throughout every district, for ample pecuniary support.

13. That the Catholics of Ireland have beheld, with sentiments of the deepest gratitude, the exalted patriotism of his Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX, manifested by his constitutional and enlightened support of the principles of Religious Liberty.

14. That the most cordial gratitude of the Catholics of Ireland is due to the Author of the "Statement of the Penal Laws," lately published—a work in which we recognize all the accuracy of great legal knowledge, combined with the classic elegance of the scholar, and the profound observation of the philosopher.

15. That these our Resolutions be published in the public prints—four times in four of the London newspapers, and six times in six of the Dublin newspapers.

16. That the warmest expressions of admiration and thanks, are due and hereby given to Counsellor FINLAY, for the luminous and profoundly eloquent speech delivered by him this day.

17. That the Protestant gentlemen who have honored our meeting this day with their presence, are deserving of our warmest thanks.

18. That the Catholic Board be requested to submit Petitions to the Catholics of Ireland, in Aggregate Meeting assembled, this day fortnight, for their adoption.

19. That we do strongly and earnestly recommend it to the Counties, Cities and great Towns in Ireland, again to accompany the General Petition of the Catholics of Ireland, by Local Petitions, inasmuch as we consider the reiteration of an universal application to the Legislature as one of the most effectual means of success.

20. That the thanks of the Catholics of Ireland are due, and are hereby given, to

the Noblemen and Gentlemen deputed by our Board to convey our Petition to Parliament, and our Addresses to the Prince Regent, for their faithful, zealous, and honorable discharge of the trust reposed in them.

21. That the warmest and most cordial thanks of this meeting are due, and hereby given, to the Earl FINGALL, for his highly dignified conduct in the Chair this day.

It is satisfactory to observe the efforts made for improvement, and with pleasure we record the formation of

THE BELFAST HISTORIC SOCIETY,
Established in Sept. 1811.

The objects of this Society are the investigation and discussion of Historical, Literary, and Moral subjects, particularly those connected with the History and constitution of our native country. To show the constitution of the society, a few of the General Laws are annexed.

The space of time from the 21st September, to the 21st of June, following, shall be called a session.

The regular night of meeting of the society, shall be on Tuesday in each week; its sitting shall commence at half past seven o'clock, in the evening, and continue till eleven; the hour in all cases to be determined by the watch of the regulator, set by the town clock.

The regular business of the Society shall succeed in the following order:

The examination of the history and constitution classes from half-past seven o'clock till eight, after which there shall be a recess of ten minutes.

The President shall then take the chair.

The proceedings of the last evening read by the Secretary, and, if found correct, signed by the President.

The best answers in examination declared by the President.

New members proposed, and candidates for admission, balloted for.

Committees appointed, and reports of committees received, subscriptions and fines collected.

Motions for new laws; alterations, amendments, or repeal of old laws, proposed or determined, and all incidental business proceeded on.

The selection of a question of debate for that night fortnight.

The debate proceeded on.

The President to leave his seat, at eleven o'clock precisely.

A question of debate shall be discussed every night, on some moral, literary, or historical subject.

No member can be appointed a debater, for one month after his admission into the society.

On the last night of meeting in each month, every member present shall give to the Secretary, in writing, a question for discussion, which he shall copy into a book kept for the purpose, the President, Regulator, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall, on each night of meeting, form themselves into a committee, to select from this book, four questions which the president shall read from the chair, and then propose each separately, till one be chosen by a majority of the Society; the President shall, after the choice of the question, declare the same, with the name of the two debaters or speakers nominated.

There shall be two members appointed to speak to the question each night, one in the affirmative, and the other in the negative—the junior having his choice.

The committee of questions shall not give in any question that has been debated during the same session.

No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice to any question on the same night.

On balloting for officers, each member shall ballot in rotation, according to seniority, and as he is called on by the Regulator; he shall declare whether or not he has engaged his vote, and if he shall refuse to make this declaration, or shall be found to have engaged his vote, he shall be disqualified from voting on that election.

In balloting for the admission or expulsion of members, each member shall make the following declaration.

"I, A.B., do give my vote, without favour or affection, and am solely influenced for the good of the society." And in case he shall refuse to make this declaration, or shall be found to be influenced by any motive, but the good of the society, he shall be disqualified from voting on the occasion.

Every session shall be opened and closed by a speech from the chair, stating the objects of the institution, and the advantages arising therefrom.

On admission, every member shall pay one guinea, to be deposited with the treasurer for the use of the society, and shall

also pay a monthly subscription of 2s. 6d. for the first session, 1s. 6d. for the second, and 1s. 3d. for the third, after which, he will be allowed to attend the society free of expense; still, however, being subject to fines for misconduct.

Every member, on admission, shall attend a class of English history for one session, and a class for the study of the constitution and law of the country, during a second; in each of which he shall undergo regular examinations; in future sessions he will be exempt from this obligation.

The person in each class, who, at the close of the session, shall be reported the best answerer for the greatest number of times, provided such reports amount at least to one fourth of the nights of meeting, during the session, shall be entitled to a silver medal.

Members who have completed two sessions, shall be exempt from all offices, but must attend the debates, subject to a fine of 10d. for non-attendance. Such members as have completed three full sessions, shall no longer be obliged to attend the meetings of the society, or be subject to pecuniary contributions, save fines for misconduct; neither shall they be entitled to the reward adjudged to the best speaker.

Theology shall not be introduced, nor any observations made injurious to any private character in this kingdom; and no question shall be debated, which is under, or stands for discussion in the then session of Parliament.

Every member shall, after the debate, inscribe on a billet, and put into the oratory return-box, the name of the member who shall appear to him to be the best speaker.

The member who shall have the greatest number of votes at the end of the session, shall receive a silver medal.

In the last Magazine Dr. Dickson's Narrative was announced, and a short character given of the merit of the publication. To contribute to spread the information, so that the sale of the work may be increased, as also to do justice to the liberal spirit dictating the resolu-

tions, the following advertisement is now communicated.

At a numerous Meeting of the friends of the Rev. Wm. Steele Dickson, the early advocate, the indefatigable supporter, and the devoted victim of the cause of Religious Freedom,

It was unanimously resolved, that holding in grateful remembrance the early and substantial services rendered by the Rev. William Steele Dickson, to the cause of Religious Freedom in this country, and deeply deploring the sufferings he has lately endured, in defence of the just and indisputable rights of mankind, *we* now conceive it a duty *we* owe to our characters as Irishmen, to come forward, and in the most public manner declare the gratitude *we* feel to this enlightened and distinguished Divine, and to call down the honest indignation of Ireland against the desperate assassins who conspired to extinguish his valuable life, on his return from the *late Catholic Meeting of Armagh*, on the 9th of September, 1811.

Resolved. That being anxious to demonstrate to the Rev. William Steele Dickson, how deeply engraven on our hearts are those enlightened and beneficent efforts which he has so often made in our cause, and the cause of Universal Union and harmony among his Countrymen of all religious persuasions; *we* hereby pledge ourselves *individually and collectively* to give our patronage to a work which he is now about to publish, and which, being an history of *his* Life, must be a source of instruction to posterity—the irresistible evidence of Irish suffering, and the most efficient antidote to the malignant poison of Prejudice and Bigotry.

Resolved. That *we* shall take as many copies of the work about to be published by the Rev. William Steele Dickson, as are now affixed to *our* names, at *one guinea* each, and *we* hereby call on every parent who wishes to instill into the heart of his child the mild and merciful principles of Christianity, and who wishes to see his Countrymen *happy and united*—to purchase the work of an Irish Presbyterian Divine, who has been *nearly forty years* the friend of Religious Liberty, and the powerful enemy of Intolerance.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From 20th May, to 20th June, 1812.

Although the weather has been generally cold for the season during the last month, yet the crops of every kind have a favourable appearance, and if the two succeeding months prove warm and dry there is great reason to expect an abundant harvest.

Provisions have rather fallen for some weeks past, and it is hoped, the supply will